

REMARKS

Applicant submits the following further comments for the Examiner's consideration as to the differences between the claimed invention and the cited art of Bloomfield and Rachelson.

The claimed invention will be explained referring to Fig. 1 produced. One feature of the claimed invention is to determine a format of image data by referring to a database, and to perform communication with a destination device to obtain functional information (S12) in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data is not stored in the database. In the claimed converting means, the following processes are performed: (i) converting the image data into the determined format in a case where the functional information is stored in the database (S14), (ii) converting the image data into the format based on the obtained functional information in a case where the functional information has been obtained by communication (S15), and (iii) converting the image data into a baseline format in a case where the functional information does not have been obtained by the communication (S16). The claimed transmitting means transmits the electronic mail data with the converted image data (S17). Thus, according to the claimed invention, it is possible to conveniently transmit by converting the image data into an appropriate format.

Next, disclosure of Bloomfield will be discussed with reference to Fig. 2 produced below. Bloomfield discloses transmitting FAX data received from a FAX device 106 to an E-mail device. The FAX data is converted into E-mail data by a FEM-gateway 104. A FAX server 110 of the FEM-gateway 104 converts the FAX data received from the FAX device 106 into a pre-selected industry-standard format, as selected by the

administrator of the FEM-gateway 104 (col. 7, lines 8 to 13). That is, in Bloomfield, the FAX data is converted into the format pre-selected by the administrator. Therefore, the conversion process (S21 shown in Fig. 2) can, at best, be seen to correspond to the conversion process (S14 of Fig. 1). Note that Bloomfield does not store function information in correspondence with a destination address. However, Bloomfield does not disclose performing communication for obtaining function information of a destination, as the process in S12 of Fig. 1. Of course, Bloomfield fails to disclose or suggest the processes in S15 and S16 of Fig. 1 as well.

Next, the disclosure of Rachelson will be discussed with reference to Figs. 2 and 3 produced below. In Rachelson, a recipient indicates a format preference via an e-mail command system in advance (S0). A facsimile message is converted into the indicated format (S32) and is sent via the Internet (S34). On the other hand, if the recipient does not indicate the format preference, the facsimile message is converted into a TIF format (S33) (col. 11, lines 21 to 38). Therefore, the processes in S32 and S33 shown in Fig. 3 produced below can, at best, be seen to correspond to the processes in S14 and S16 shown in Fig. 1, respectively. However, in Rechelson, if the preference is indicated in advance, the facsimile message is converted into the indicated format, else the TIF format.

In contrast, in the claimed invention, communication is performed to obtain function information in a case where the function information is not stored in a database. Further, image data is converted into a baseline format in a case where the functional information corresponding to a destination address is not obtained. Thus, in the claimed invention, the process is changed in accordance with not only whether the recipient indicates the preference but also whether function information is obtained by

communication. In this way, both Bloomfield and Rachelson fail to disclose or suggest the features of the claimed invention (above-mentioned (i) to (iii) executed by the claimed converting means).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

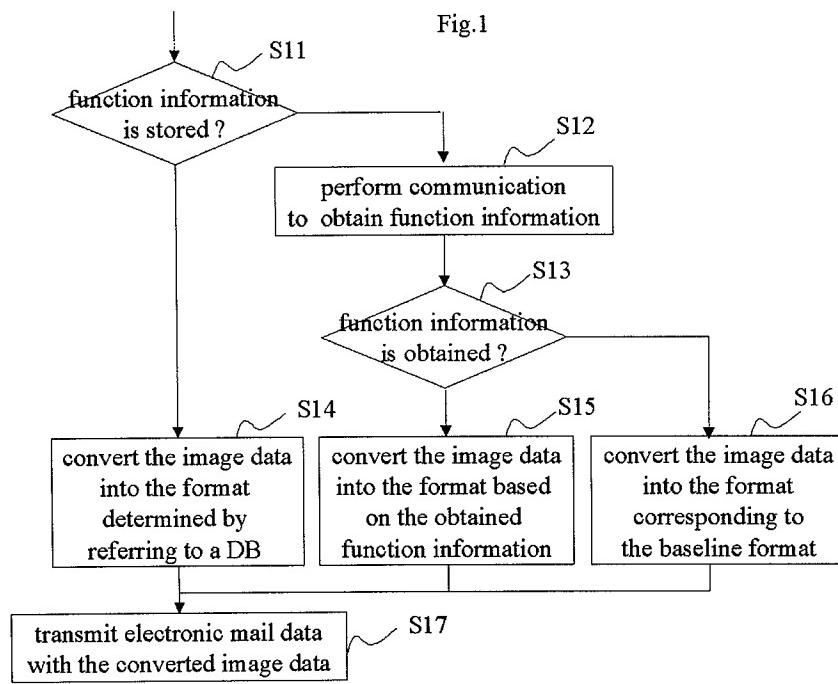


Fig.2

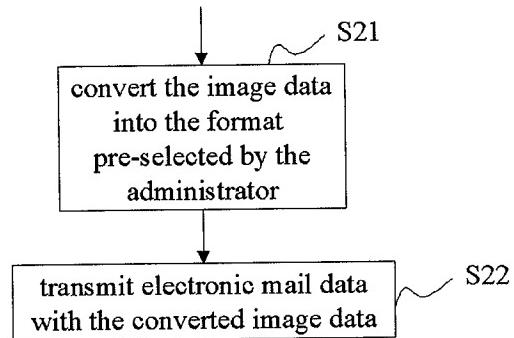
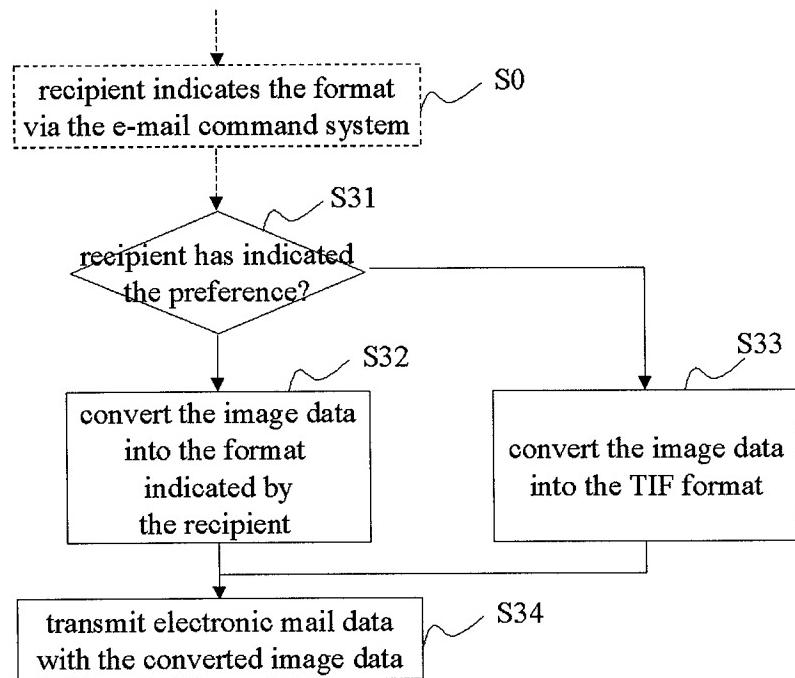


Fig.3



Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward Kmett/

Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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